



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Roanoke County Honors It's Emergency Medical Service Providers

National EMS week is May 14-20, 2006

May 9, 2006 (Roanoke County) – Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department is gearing up to celebrate Emergency Medical Services Week by recognizing all EMS personnel and kicking off a summer safety campaign. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is celebrated nationally during the week of May 14-20, 2006.

This year, the national theme is “EMS: Serving on Health Care’s Front Line,” which underscores the commitment and dedication of the 750,000 EMS providers who serve their communities. The weeklong series of events will include national and local activities to honor EMS providers (paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, fire fighters, and police) to raise public awareness about health and safety issues, including how to prevent injuries and what to do in a medical emergency. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention join American College of Emergency Physicians as organizational sponsors of EMS Week.

The system of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Roanoke County starts with a dispatcher. The dispatcher handles incoming 9-1-1 calls, determines the nature and location of the emergency and sends the needed medical help. Next, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s) and or Paramedics arrive in the ambulance. EMT’s are trained to provide Basic Life Support; Paramedics provide Advanced Life Support. EMT’s and Medics may be paid or volunteer in Roanoke County.

EMT’s provide Basic Life Support (BLS), such as first aid, oxygen administration, airway management, application of splints and bandages, CPR and automated defibrillation. Advanced Life Support (ALS) is

provided by paramedics. ALS includes intravenous therapy, invasive airway management, administration of medications, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation. There are also EMT-Intermediates who function as mid-level emergency medical care providers.

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians there are 567,221 EMT's, 154,187 Paramedics, and 48,384 EMS licensed vehicles across the United States; along with 15,276 EMS license organizations. In Roanoke County there are 54 paid EMT's, 35 paid paramedics and 22 EMT-Intermediates. Roanoke County also has a volunteer system that boasts over 150 EMT's, more than 20 paramedics, and approximately 12 EMT-Intermediates.

Roanoke County is celebrating EMS week with several activities as well as kicking off their Summer Safety Campaign. The National EMS Memorial Service is held right here in Roanoke on May 27, 2006 starting at 7 pm at the First Baptist Church in downtown Roanoke. The National EMS Memorial Service honors EMS personnel who have died in the line of duty. The National Moment of Silence, part of the National EMS Memorial Service, is held at 8 pm. For more information: Call (804) 749-8191 or visit <http://nemsms.org>

Roanoke County Fire and Rescue has already kicked off their Summer Safety Campaign by distributing learning activity packs and summer safety tips to elementary school age children during the past month at public education events around the county. The Summer Safety Campaign includes some of the following safety tips for children: stay alert; always buckle up in motor vehicles; don't talk or go with strangers; always walk, play & swim with a buddy; stay away from things that can burn you; wear a helmet when riding a bike, scooter or skate board; and never touch a weapon- if you find one tell an adult right away. If you would like more information on how you can stay safe this summer call Roanoke County Fire and Rescue at 561-8119.

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors will recognize Roanoke County EMS personnel and proclaim May 14-20th as EMS week in Roanoke County at their May 9th 3:00 pm meeting.
